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THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application Serial No.09/876,376
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Inventor John R. Douceur et al.
Group Art Unit 2154
Examiner Hu, Jinsong
Attorney's Docket No. MS1-769US
Confirmation No. 8992
Title: Locating Potentially Identical Objects Across Multiple Computers Based On
Stochastic Partitioning of Workload

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION DATED SEPTEMBER 20, 2004

To: Commissioner for Patents,
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

From: Allan T. Sponseller (Tel. 509-324-9256 x215; Fax 509-323-8979)
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REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of the subject application. Claims 1-97 are pending in this application.

The claims are subjected to a restriction requirement under 35 U.S.C. §121 as containing seven distinct inventions:

- A. Claims 1-5 and 50-61, drawn to a system and method for identifying the computers that storing identical objects, classified in class 708, subclass 365.
- B. Claims 6-22 and 33-36, drawn to a system and method for identifying one or more computers storing potential identical files by computer identifier, classified in class 712, subclass 26.